

The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, more commonly called the "G.I. Bill of Rights," broadly embraces five matters, (the sixth concerns administration and penalties only). The five: 1. Hospitalization, aid by veterans organizations and the matter of reviewing authority. 2. Education. 3. Loans for purchasing homes, farms and business property. 4. Employment. 5. Readjustment allowances, for former members of the armed services who are unemployed or only partially employed.

SECTION I

The bill, which became effective Sept. 4, 1944, discloses the high importance which the government has attached to the matter of re-establishing veterans in civilian life. The Veterans Administration is declared to be an essential war agency, with priorities second only to the War and Navy Departments.

The sum of \$500,000,000 is authorized for setting up and taking over of adequate hospital facilities to serve veterans of World War II. Arrangements are provided, not only for hospital care, but the bill also entitles the veteran to have necessary fitting and training in use of body appliances, such as artificial limbs. The person shall not be required to sign a statement of any kind relating to how he incurred his injury or disease, and any statement remains void. Position of the government is to render the service to the veteran, despite the cause of the injury or disease.

All rights to benefits under the veterans' law are barred in instances where the individual has been discharged or dismissed by a general court martial; or because he was a conscientious objector and failed to perform military duty; or refused to wear the uniform; or as a deserter; or because the individual, as an officer, was forced to resign "for the good of the service."

The Administrator of Veterans Affairs may "go behind" or "investigate" the offense which brought dismissal, and, on finding that the person was insane, may reestablish the veteran's eligibility to his benefits under the bill.

SECTION II, EDUCATION

This section provides education or training for any person, such as follows: 1. Who served in the armed forces on or after Sept. 16, 1940, and prior to termination of the present war; 2. Who shall have been dismissed under any conditions except "dishonorable;" 3. Whose education was impeded or delayed because of his entrance into the service; 4. Who desires a refresher course; 5. Who served 90 days or more in the service, exclusive of time spent in an educational course, or as a cadet or midshipman; 6. Who has been discharged because of a disability incurred in service.

The educational feature of the bill has a wide variety of provisions.

The veteran's training period allowed under the bill must begin within the two-year period after his discharge from the service, or within two years after the end of the war, whichever is later. The educational provision of the bill becomes void seven years after the war's end.

The training course allowed is to be for a period of one year (or the equivalent in continuous part-time study, as, two years of half-a-day study, etc.), or it may be for less than a year, as required. The training or education is to be in "approved" institution.

On completion of such a course, except refresher courses, the veteran is entitled to an additional period of training "not to exceed the time he was in active service after Sept. 16, 1940, and before the termination of the war, exclusive of any period he was assigned for a course of education" under the Army or Navy program. In no event can the period of education exceed four years.

The veteran may choose his course of study, and change to another later, if progress in the first one is "unsatisfactory."

The Veterans Administrator pays the bill, including cost of tuition, fees, books, supplies, etc., exclusive of board, lodging and travel, not to exceed \$500 for an ordinary school year.

A veteran without dependents is to be paid subsistence allowance of \$50 per month, those with dependents to be paid \$75. Veterans attending on a part-time basis or receiving compensation for work they do as apprentice workers in training, will receive less subsistence pay, as determined by the Administrator.

SECTION III, LOANS

Provisions are made for veterans with 90 days of service record (not required if the person was injured in line of duty and dismissed before 90 days) to purchase or construct homes or acquire farms or business property. He must apply within two years after discharge, or after the end of the war, whichever is later, but in no event more than five years after the war, to the Administrator of Veterans Affairs.

The Administrator will guarantee a loan, or loans, not to exceed 50 per cent of the loan total, and not to exceed \$2,000. The terms are broad and designed to help the veteran to the utmost in making a safe, practical purchase.

SECTION IV, EMPLOYMENT

A Veterans Placement Service Board is created under Act of June 6, 1933, and this executive agency is to cooperate with and assist the U.S. Employment Service in directing the task of assisting veterans of the nation to secure employment.

SECTION V, READJUSTMENT ALLOWANCES

Unless he is in need of hospitalization, perhaps the first benefit of the bill the Veteran will need is that which is the concluding part of the measure; Readjustment allowances.

These are simply the money payments of \$20 a week (any seven-day period) while the veteran is completely unemployed, from periods ranging from eight to 52 weeks, depending upon the veteran's length of service in the armed forces. In case of partial employment, the amount of wages for the week in excess of \$3 is deducted from his weekly allowances.

For the veteran's first three months of active service, he is allowed eight weekly unemployment allowances. For each month of active service after Sept. 16, 1940, he is allowed four weekly unemployment payments. Thus, a person who served from Sept. 16, 1943, to Jan. 15, 1944, would have exactly four months of active service and be entitled to 28 weeks of allowances. To be eligible, the applicant must have served in the armed forces at least 90 days--unless discharged sooner because of a disability incurred in the line of duty.

The allowances are not in effect, and unemployed veterans should make applications immediately.